

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 30, 2002, the claims 1-39 are pending. The Examiner allows claims 1-6, 8-16, 20, 24-30, and 36-39. Page 1 of the office action shows claim 19 as rejected, and claims 17 and 18 as objected to. However, on page 7, paragraph 4, the Examiner allows claims 14-19 as directly or indirectly dependent on allowed based claim 13. Thus, the allowed claims are as follows: claims 1-6, 8-20, 24-30, and 36-39.

The Examiner rejects the remaining claims 7, 21, 22, 31-34, and objects to claims 23 and 35. On page 9 of the action, paragraph 2, the Examiner states that claims 23 and 35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response to the rejection of claim 7, Applicants amend claim 7 to include the limitations of allowed claim 8, and claim 8 is cancelled. In response to the rejection of claims 21 and 22, Applicants add the limitations of claims 22 and 23 to base claim 21 and cancel claims 22 and 23. Similarly, Applicants add the limitations of claims 33³⁵~~34~~ to base claim 32 and cancel claims 33-35. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 21 and 32 are now allowable as these claims comprise all of the elements of the objected to claims as well as the base and intervening claims. Independent Claim 31 is cancelled.

Applicants assert that the allowed claims 1, 4-6, 9-12, 17-18, 28, 30, 36, 37, and 39 are amended only for the purpose of correcting antecedent basis errors and other minor typographical errors. Applicants assert that NO new matter has been added. In addition, Applicants assert that these claim have NOT been amended to over come any prior art nor to distinguish these claims from any prior art, cited or otherwise.

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Summary

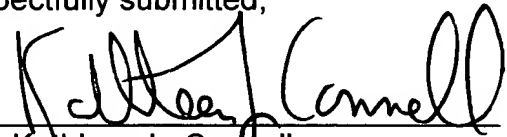
In view of the above amendments, Applicants assert that claims 1-7, 9-21, 24-30, 32, and 36-39 are now in a state for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to issue a notice of allowance for these claims

Should the Examiner believe that prosecution of this application might be expedited by further discussion of the issues, he is invited to telephone the attorney for Applicants at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: September 30, 2002

By:



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11